

OBSOLETE WAR VESSELS.

Uncle Sam has about thirty one-time fighting ships that he would like to sell to the highest bidder. The vessels range from obsolete monitors to big battle ships that are no longer possible because of the increased efficiency of more recent guns. Just what to do with these vessels is a perplexing problem that confronts the navy department, for there seems to be no purchaser in sight. "Sell them for pleasure yachts," was the suggestion of one member of congress. But no one seems to be hankering after a yacht in the form of a cruiser that would require a crew of 200 or 300 men. Then again the fuel bill of the proud owner of a cruiser-yacht would be decidedly heavy, not to speak of the expense of feeding such a crew, keeping the old craft in repair and a few other minor incidentals that would run the annual bill into hundreds of thousands. The average citizen will not bother his brain greatly over the disposition of these costly has-beens. The government pays big salaries to men who are trained as experts in such matters. The chief interest in the situation to the citizens is the thought of the millions obtained by taxation that have been paid in the construction of vessels that prove to be "no account" in a few years, says Indianapolis Star. In a sense it seems like "throwing money to the birds."

The steamboat fires on the Mississippi and on the Hudson river are coincidental occurrences which point to the need of eternal vigilance on passenger craft on river, lake and ocean. Fire apparatus and fire drills are important and should not be neglected by masters. Builders can achieve safety with strength of hull and consequent seaworthiness, but there is no insurance against fire except through constant watchfulness and the maintenance of conditions which make for safety.

Health boards in various cities are distributing circulars giving instructions as to the best way of getting rid of that pestiferous nuisance the house fly. The insect is correctly described as one of the most effective disseminators of germs of various kinds, including typhoid fever, and there is not the slightest doubt that many deaths, such suffering and a great deal of expense may be traced directly to this cause. Keep the flies out of the house as far as possible and guard against the flies for which they are responsible.

Some of the big transatlantic companies are reporting large gains in receipts and profits over last year. This means an increase in the carrying of American passengers and freight. And it goes to show how foreign shipowners are being enriched at our expense. When will Americans make up their minds to provide a mercantile marine of their own and save the money which they now pay to others?

Everybody is in favor of good roads in the country needs them and no sound objections are urged against them. Why, then, should not each state strive for the honor of being in the front rank in the movement?

Now that Johnson and Jeffries have had their fight and Halley's comet has disappeared and public mourning for King Edward has come to an end, it may be supposed that the efforts to stir up a row between England and Germany will be resumed.

These are the days when the "old swimming hole" has irresistible attractions for the youngsters. But ability to swim should be an indispensable qualification to participating in the pleasures of bathing.

A West Point cadet denied cheating on a parade, but a hard-hearted officer rudely investigated and the offender was dismissed, not for cheating, but for lying about it.

Missouri demands to be shown the farmers that own automobiles. The indignation is that a great deal of misinformation on that subject has been circulated.

This is the time of year when a little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men.

Ten women were in the first business trip of the great sky liner in Germany. That fact confirms the modern maxim that what man may do, women will do.

In Russia it is against the law to marry more than five times. But even so, Russia is not an ideal country in which to reside.

Killing flies has now become a duty that people owe to their country.

A New Jersey woman was robbed of \$2,000 worth of jewels on the trip over to this country, which saved her the trouble of attempting to smuggle them in.

A Paris physician has discovered an anti-typhoid vaccine. Now he'd better get busy and discover a place to put it.

Ice cream soda killed a man in Brooklyn, but what of that?

MAKES IT EASY TO PILOT AEROPLANE



THE MICROPHONE IN USE.

Paris.—Captain Marconnet, one of the French army officers who is doing much to advance the science of aviation, has recently invented a device which enables a passenger on an aeroplane to guide the pilot, despite the difficulty ordinarily of the latter hearing anything that is said while the machine is making a rapid flight. It is a microphone, the mouth piece used by the passenger being attached to the flap of the pilot's cap, and the mouthpiece for the pilot being placed on his left shoulder.

MUSIC CHARMS COW

Gives More Milk While Orchestra Plays Classical Pieces.

Lake Bluff Dairy Woman Tests Theory of Michigan Farmer and Finds Waiters Are Most Soothing—Don't Like Ragtime.

Chicago.—Sad-eyed cows on the farm of Mrs. Scott Durand in Lake Bluff the other day lost their remorseful feelings, became happy-faced, and gave more milk than they had been accustomed to, because the farm hands milked the 61 Jerseys and Holsteins to the sweet strains of the "Blue Danube" waltz and other selections rendered by an orchestra.

Milk-impregnated milk is a fact and not a theory, according to the North Shore society woman, who watched the cows being milked while nine musicians waited sweet music under the farm.

Milk taken from the "bosses," while the orchestra sent forth soothing music, tasted better and had a more happy effect upon the drinkers than the milk served which had not been "music impregnated," according to those who went through the test.

The unique test was made to prove the assertion of a Michigan farmer that cows give more milk while music is being rendered.

The music calmed the nerves of the cows and their udders let down all the milk in them.

Soon after the milking had been finished, Mrs. Durand, who is known as the "Queen of Hostesses," served the liquid to the musicians.

"This experiment has been a perfect revelation to me," said Mrs. Durand after Helen, Clarice, Flossie and No. 52, the first four cows, had been milked to the music of the orchestra.

Throwing her arms around Helen Mrs. Durand declared that she had never seen her cows stand so still and contentedly before.

"That's perfectly lovely! Look at their eyes! The cows want more music," she pleaded.

Incubator Dinner New Fad

Rhode Island Farmer Hits Upon Novel Scheme to Bake Beans While Wife Is in Town.

Westerly, R. I.—A drummer who invaded the rural districts here a few days ago with the latest brand of fireless cooker for the economy and comfort of the over-worked farmer's wife has left town disgusted, with not a sale to his credit. He found the natives equipped with cookers which, they assert, are far ahead of so-called up-to-date ones.

Walter Russell Ross, a farmer on the post road, is the Moses of the kitchen. A few weeks ago his wife went to town to spend the day. Walter foraged his own breakfast and enough for the help. It was Saturday, and his better-half had left instructions to put the big pot of beans in the morning and let them bake all day. Walter had some beef to do and figured he couldn't waste a day indoors, and he engaged his Yankee brain for an idea.

It came. He took the pot of beans with the big chunk of pork floating on top out into the woodshed where the incubator stood. Turning up the lamp, he

Girls Take Bicycle Trip

Two Americans, Making European Record, Take Majordomo for Real Prince.

Dresden.—Among the crowds of Americans who took part in the demonstrations in Berlin were two American girls engaged in the task of building up a European bicycling record.

They are Hattie Sherborne and Handley, both of Brooklyn. Riding at Cherbourg they cycled through France, spending three days in Paris. Italy was the next country visited, and after Italy, Germany, Copenhagen, Christiania and Stockholm are also to be visited.

According to the account given by the travelers to a Dresden paper their journey up to that point was free from any disagreeable incident. They told, however, of an occurrence of an amusing kind if it also brought them a little disappointment. On one occasion, when they were near Cannes, a tire

Then the orchestra shifted from a classical selection to ragtime music.

Suddenly the cows grew restive.

"Horror," declared Mrs. Durand when the orchestra began to play the Cubanola Glide. "Stop it, my cows are cultured and abhor ragtime music as much as they do swearing."

Then the musicians started up a selection from "Tosca," "I Live for Love and Music," and to the amazement of Mrs. Durand and the milkers, the cows became quiet and contented again.

"Do you know I feel that my cows are the mothers of the hundreds of babies fed on Crab Tree farm milk," said the society leader, who had invited the orchestra out to her farm to give a practical demonstration to prove if cows give more milk to the tunes of sweet music than otherwise.

Mrs. Durand has been convinced of this fact and intends to equip her barn with several phonographs.

Stop Killing of Elephants

Friends of Pachyderm in England and France Urge Reserves to Halt Extinction.

London.—Whether it be the outcome of Mr. Roosevelt's recent hunting trip in Africa or not, a meeting held by the French society known as "The Friends of the Elephant," at which it was decided to approach the French government with the object of securing better reserves for elephants in Africa, has had the effect of reviving some interest in the same matter among members of the sister society in London.

Lieut. Col. John Henry Patterson, one of the most active members of the society, said in an interview: "In the United Kingdom this question has been ably and zealously dealt with by the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire."

"The objects of the association are to create a sound public opinion on the subject of the preservation of wild

CLUB TO MAKE NEWSIES GOOD

Omaha Business Men Form Organization to Stop Swearing and Tobacco Using.

Omaha, Neb.—How to keep the 400 newsboys of this city from shooting craps, swearing, smoking and forgetting to wash their hands and faces at proper intervals is a problem that has agitated the members of the Children's Home society. At last it is believed that a solution has been reached.

An organization for the welfare of the newsboys started eight years ago fell through, and since then the youngsters have been permitted to grow up and run wild. Now they are to be taken in hand and their condition bettered.

Probation Officer Bernstein has interested a number of business men of the city and a club has been organized, with E. W. Dickinson, capitalist; Rome Miller, proprietor of the largest hotel in the city; J. A. Cudahy, a packer; Rev. Father Burns, a pastor, who has always interested himself in boys, and Judge Sutton of the juvenile court as trustees.

The committee having immediate charge of the welfare of the boys is made up of Joe Carroll, Tony Costanzo, Tony Monico and Sam Kalin, all of them were once newsboys, but now are prosperous business men.

The following rules have been adopted by the committee to govern the actions of the boys:

No smoking, chewing, gambling or jumping on street cars.

Must have clean faces and hands.

No going into saloons.

Must be off the streets at eight o'clock at night unless an extra is out.

No boy under eight years of age shall sell papers.

Every boy under sixteen years of age shall attend one session of school daily.

No foul or profane language.

A large room has been rented near the business portion of the city. It has been equipped with a small library, tables on which games of many kinds can be played, tubs and shower bath.

The club will be self-governed and officered by the boys, but over its affairs the committee of business men will have general supervision.

It will cost the boys nothing to join the club. Each member is given a numbered badge for identification and as a certificate of character. If a complaint is filed against any boy, or if a boy becomes troublesome, a report is made to the juvenile court, when Judge Sutton will investigate and take the necessary action.

life, both at home and in the colonies and British dependencies; to further the formation of game reserves and sanctuaries, the selection of the most suitable places for these sanctuaries and the enforcing of suitable game laws and regulations.

"The society devotes considerable attention to the preservation of elephants, and has sent many deputations on the subject to successive foreign and colonial secretaries. Elephant reserves at present exist in all our African colonies where those animals are found. In British Gambia no elephants are allowed to be killed, and it is hoped that similar sanctuary will, owing to the efforts of the French society, be extended to the elephants in the French West African possessions.

"For the year ended March, 1908, 539 tons of ivory, worth \$2,502,760, were imported into the United Kingdom alone. Taking the average ton to weigh 40 pounds (a very liberal estimate), this means the death of more than fifteen thousand elephants. The ivory was practically all African, the quantity from India being only of the value of \$175,000. If this annual slaughter is allowed to continue we are, almost already in sight of the extinction of the African elephant, but it is hoped that the efforts of the British and French societies will stir public opinion and prevent such a deplorable loss to the fauna of the world."

London Death Rate Low.

London.—In four weeks the death rate in London averaged 10.8 per 1,000, being 1.7 per 1,000 below the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the five years 1895-9. There were three cases of smallpox in the Metropolitan asylum board and London fever hospitals last week, the only cases in London for the last thirteen weeks.

To Spend \$30,000,000.

Lisbon.—Two battleships, six protected cruisers, eighteen destroyers, and six submarines are to be built by the Portuguese government at an estimated cost of \$30,000,000.

Burglars Steal An Aeroplane.

Paris.—Some burglars recently stole an aeroplane at Verriers. The local gendarmes are somewhat puzzled by the offense.

\$150,000 DIAMOND IS FOUND

Excellent White African Specimen Is Declared to Have a Weight of 194 Carats.

New York.—A fine white diamond weighing 191 carats and worth \$150,000 was the latest find at the Premier mine in South Africa, according to advices which reached Maiden Lane dealers the other day. The stone is described as absolutely flawless, being two inches long by about three-fourths of an inch thick. It tapers in breadth from one end and a fourth inch to three-fourths of an inch.

A Maiden Lane expert said that judging from the description of the uncut stone, the largest perfect diamond that could be cut from it would be pear-shaped.

The finished stone will probably rank among the world's famous gems. When cut the diamond should be worth at least \$200,000. The Premier mine became world-famous in 1905, when the Cullinan diamond was discovered by Mr. Wel.

City Items in Terse Form

Metropolitan News of Interest to All Readers

Law Can't Suppress Babies' Howls



BROOKLYN.—Anxiously awaiting the outcome of the important case of Tucker against Coch, tried in the Flatbush court, Brooklyn, Flatbush mothers learned with great relief that they would not be forced to the expense of equipping their teething babies with Maxim silencers, Coch lost and the babies of Flatbush were triumphant.

Passing, Solomon-like, on the great issue, Magistrate Naumer ruled that even a Flatbush infant must have teeth to go through the world with. Should one be expected to worry through life with gums innocent of molars and incisors, unless the joys of sinking them into aloha at 30 cents a pound? To be sure not. Was Mr. Coch a toothless baby? Of course he wasn't. Didn't he cry when the soothing syrup failed to soothe? He did. Well then, why should the Tucker baby be denied that world-old privilege of infancy? Mr. Coch could adduce nothing to overthrow this argument.

So it was ruled by the learned court that it was well within the old Roman, the English common, the revised or unrevived statutes, the city ordinances, Magna Charta, or even the plain or common variety of law for any Flatbush baby to howl and yowl and rip up the palpitating silence of the Flatbush night and turn it inside out while his "toofens" are in.

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Faithful Dog Avenges a Policeman



NEW YORK.—Patrolman Lawrence Cummins of the East One Hundred and Fourth street police station, on whose post the car barn gang has its headquarters, was beaten savagely by members of that band and was in the hospital for several weeks.

The first request Cummins made to Capt. Corcoran when he reported again for duty was to be assigned to his old post. He said he wanted to show the toughs that he was not afraid of them and that they could not drive a policeman from his place of duty. Capt. Corcoran took the same view and sent Cummins back.

From the moment he resumed his work the gang annoyed Cummins, but it was not until the other night that the roughs got a chance to "do him up" again. His found about a dozen of them on the street insulting women who passed.

"Move on," commanded Cummins. But a truck driver, 19 years old, hurled insults at the policeman. Cummins arrested him. The rest of the gang disappeared. Cummins started for the police station with his prisoner, but as they went along there was a

pushing themselves out as a protest against a milk diet. This applies to both boy and girl babies not only in Flatbush, but all over Brooklyn.

Bearing with him this solemn and momentous ruling of the Snyder avenue tribunal, Mr. Tucker returned to be hailed as a conquering hero by the mothers of Flatbush. There was talk in the own-your-own home district of erecting, by popular subscription, in Beverly square, a monument to Tucker. A design suggested showed him in heroic attitude, holding aloft a bottle of soothing syrup and standing protectively before a cradle.

Summer Tucker and Arnold Coch live in adjoining cottages, or villas, as they obtain in Flatbush, in Martense street. All was well between them until the Tucker baby arrived. They had borrowed and loaned lawn mowers, exchanged garden seeds and talked radish, lettuce and other garden crops. But with the coming of the Tucker heir a gulf opened.

Like most infants of its age, the Tucker one is busily engaged in belching in teeth. Now, Mr. Coch has no objection to teeth. He owns a lot himself. But the day and night vocal demonstrations with which the Tucker baby accompanied their efforts to push through made Coch peevish. He suggested a motor boat muffler or something like that to Mr. Tucker and the latter was irritated. He had his neighbor summoned to court, saying he had abused him.

Mr. Coch offered loss of sleep and such argument in justification. But it was of no use; Magistrate Naumer was with the babies. He was one himself once, and he remembered the time well.

call from a roof. The prisoner broke from Cummins and ran into a house.

The gang had gone to a roof, torn away the chimney and water for the policeman and his prisoner. When the signal was given and the prisoner had fled from the firing zone his friends hurried the chimney bricks down at Cummins. After three had struck him on the head he fell unconscious. Men who saw the attack ran to the station. Sgt. Higgins and eight bluecoats raced to the rescue of their comrade.

Twice a week a Dalmatian dog, Bessie, who belongs to truck company No. 25 on One Hundred and Fourteenth street, visits the East One Hundred and Fourth street station, and has a supper at the expense of John Ritter. That night she was there and she went with the rescue squad.

When the men entered the house from which the bricks had been hurled on Cummins the dog went with them. But while the sergeant and his men went to the roof Bessie stopped at the second floor.

Back in a dark corner of the tenement hallway she had caught sight of a man, and, instead of going further, she leaped for him. She got a good grip on his trousers and he could not beat her off. Five minutes afterward the policemen on their way back to the street after a fruitless search, heard a scuffle. They found Bessie still holding on to the man. He was the escaped prisoner.

Mississippi Catfish Are Thirsty



ST. LOUIS.—It is only within the memory of the oldest river men that the rivers forming the great Mississippi system have been so low in the summer as they have this year. The old-timers say the low stages this year can be compared only with those of 1864, when the catfish had to climb out into the fields to moisten their parched throats with the dew.

North of St. Louis steamboat traffic is almost at a standstill on account of the low water in the Upper Mississippi. The Diamond J line has been forced to take off its through boats to St. Paul and has great difficulty in getting its local packets through to Burlington. In many excursion boats are tied up. Several of the boats have been damaged in an effort to navigate.

But while the steamboat interests are suffering the pearl button factories and the pearl hunters are reap-

ing a harvest. Hundreds of men, women and children can be seen along the water front of every town hunting clams. The shells are sold to the button factories after being searched for pearls. Many fine pearls have been found.

Conditions along the Ohio river are getting serious, too, though the situation there is not as bad as it was last year, when practically every one of the hundreds of steamboats along that stream were either stranded in the river or tied up at the bank.

If it were not for the water that comes out of the Missouri, steamboat traffic would be suspended between here and Cairo. While the Missouri has not risen this year to within 15 feet of the flood stage, it has maintained a steady flow of water, enough to keep the steamboats going on the Mississippi and enough for the boats running on that stream. Still, unless there are rains soon in the north the Missouri is likely to go very low this fall, although not as low as it has been in some years. It has been many years since the Missouri has fallen below the zero stage. It is now eight feet above that stage, which is about the usual flow in the fall.

King Hog Makes Lucky Farmer Glad



KANSAS CITY.—The greatest monomaniac on the farm during the past year has been the hog. The farmer with a carload of hogs was assured of an automobile, a trip to Europe, or more farm land. Now in modern history have hogs been sold at such high prices, on a strict gold basis, of course, as during the past several months.

Early in the present year there were reports of a "hog shortage" from many hog-raising districts. And market receipts bore out the reports. From January 1, 1910, to July 1, 1910, receipts at the five leading western markets—Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis and St. Joseph—were, in round numbers, two and one-fourth million head less than during the corresponding six months of 1909. Arrivals at the five big points in the first half of 1909 numbered 9,280,000.

in the first half of 1910 receipts at the previously mentioned markets were 2,960,000. In other words, a growing population was fed on 75 per cent. of the hogs that were consumed in the first six months of 1909. The direct effect of the decrease in hog receipts, while the population was unquestionably increasing, was a sharp advance in market value of swine.

At the Kansas City stockyards the average cost of hogs for the first six months of 1909 was \$6.64 per hundredweight. In the first half of 1910 the average cost at the same market was \$9.31, showing a gain of \$2.67 per hundredweight, or about 40 per cent.

At all the other markets the advance in prices was practically equal to that at Kansas City. Thus, with a decrease of 25 per cent. in receipts and, according to the popular belief, many more mouths to feed, there came an increase in the market value of hogs of 40 per cent. It may be interesting to note that the average cost of all weights and all kinds of hogs at the Kansas City yards during the first half of the present year was 51 cents greater than the highest price ever paid at those yards previous to 1910.



THRILLING MEMORIES OF WAR

General Longstreet Talks Interestingly of Great Conflict—His Greatest Battle.

It was in the early spring of 1863 that I had the pleasure of calling for the first time upon Gen. James Longstreet, who, as an authority puts it, "enjoyed the distinction of being one of the greatest fighters of the Confederacy, and possessed the unbounded confidence and affection of his soldiers." It was at his home in Atlanta, and the fragrance of early flowers and the glory that shone in the blossoming peach trees lent an especial attraction to the approach to his home, says E. J. Edwards, in Boston Globe.

The picture I had in my mind's eye of the great leader who had so often discomfited noted Union commanders was based on war-time prints, all displaying him with a long and flowing beard. But I found him without beard, except a tuft in front of each ear. His complexion was ruddy, his eyes were bright, and yet he seemed somewhat infirm. The really noticeable thing about his features was the scar that bore, mute evidence of the frightful wound that he had received at the Wilderness at a most critical moment in that battle.

"General," I said, after a time, "I have heard that many military critics believe that had you not been wounded just when and where you were, you probably would have driven Grant back across the Rappahannock."

"Perhaps," was the reply; "no one can ever tell what the result of a battle will be until it is over."

For several moments he was thoughtfully silent.

"That battle," he said, "is one of my thrilling war recollections, of course; the twinges that the wound gives me, now in my cheek and now in my shoulder, will not let me forget it, I fear, until the day of my death. But I think that the most thrilling recollections, certainly the most pleasing, that I have of the late struggle are those which tell of close personal relations between the commanders upon one side with those of the other after battle, when prisoners were captured, and especially immediately after the war. They tell me—questioningly—that 'Gen. Joe Johnston, who has just retired from congress, and General Sherman frequently sat side by side like two intimate friends in the house of representatives at Washington?'"

"Yes, that is true," I answered. "I have often seen them together there."



General Johnston's seat was near the door. General Sherman had the privileges of the floor, and frequently he came in quietly, edged his way to a vacant seat beside Johnston, and there they sat side by side like old cronies sometimes for two or three hours."

"Ah," exclaimed General Longstreet, "that illustrates the war spirit which the men who were true soldiers—not political generals—on either side felt for their opponents when the fighting was all over, when duty to their cause was done. Why, that spirit began with that very kindly act that Grant did after Buckner had surrendered to him. You know the story—how Grant received Buckner as a personal friend and offered to share his purse with him. That spirit was characteristic of the personal relations of the opposing generals throughout the war and for a long time after, and I wish it could also have been characteristic of some of the politicians on either side. Then there would have been many irritations, many resentments, many difficulties of both war and peace eliminated. Oh, I sometimes wish that the reconstruction period had been left to the direction of those who were in important command at the time of the war. I am certain that they would have continued to show the utmost delicacy of consideration for each other."

"Yes, the tenderest, the most permanent and in many respects the most thrilling recollections that I have of the war are associated with the noble courage and dignity and true kindness which were characteristic of the personal relations of opposing commanders. They are memories that will not fade—that not even thought of stirring battle can displace."

Granted Pensions.

Commissioner Davenport has made a ruling which repels the former rulings by which the survivors of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth United States volunteers enlisted from the military prisons to fight the Indians were denied pensions because of their previous service to the Confederacy. Commissioner Davenport has also ruled that the men who enlisted in the far west to fight the Indians are entitled to pensions under the McCumber and other acts, as they were part of the force raised to suppress the rebellion.